(c) It is not practicable to protect these mineral deposits spread over large area. Considering the vast resources of these mineral, the Government of India has in October 1998 notified a new policy on Beach Sand Minerals with a view to increase the rate of exploration of the minerals and also to attract more investment in this sector, both private and foreign along with latest technology for value addition within the country.

Setting up of atomic power project in Rajasthan

†2479. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey had been conducted at any place apart from Rawatbhata in Rajasthan for production of electricity from atomic power; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether on the basis of above survey, possibility of setting up atomic energy centre near Mahi Bajaj Sea in Banswada district had been expressed, if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether the possibilities of conducting any survey for setting up atomic project station at any other place in Rajasthan is also being explored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Site Selection Committee of the Department has investigated various sites in the country and submitted its report to the Department. No decision has been taken on the new sites for setting up new neclear power projects.

(b) Site Selection Committee of the Department has investigated Mahi Bajan Sea in Banswada District in addition to Raawatbhata in Rajasthan for setting a nuclear power project.

(c) No, Sir.

Allotment of coal to brick kilns

2480. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to allot coal to brick kilns all over the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what is the present policy with regard to allotment of coal to brick kilns in different States;

(c) whether any representations have been received in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that coal is being leaked to brick kilns in different places without proper authorization; and

(e) the steps proposed to examine the policy with regard to supply of coal for rural based industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The allotment of coal to brick kilns all over the country is based on the sponsorships issued by the nominated state sponsoring authorities subject to availability of coal. Such sponsorships, though not being insisted upon by the coal companies, is given cognizance to as and when the same is received. Besides, most of the coal offered for sale under the Open Sales Scheme (OSS) finds its way to brick sector. Further the Govt. has also earmarked certain quantities to be distributed through nominated Central/State Govt. Agencies to take care of tiny & small consumers including consumers of brick sector.

(c) Yes, Sir. The representation received are being taken care of through the schemes indicated above.

(d) and (e) There have been instances in non-core sector where diversion of coal by some of the linked industrial consumers was detected. With a view to check the same, a more transparent concept for sale of coal through e-auction has been evolved and trial runs for the same have recently been successfully conducted in some of the coal companies to take care of the needs of the consumers, big or small, including rural based industries without the restrictions of linkage/sponsorship. Morever, Govt. nominated agencies would also cater to the needs of urban as well as rural industries.

Shortage of coal

2481. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coal in the country;